

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY ARA/BC:JEKARKASHIAN:NG

APPROVED BY ARA:WDROGERS

ARA:HWSHLAUDEMAN

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S/S -O: L.MATTESON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 279673

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, MASS

SUBJECT: MILITARY ASSISTANCE CUTOFF TO CHILE

1. CHILEAN CHARGE GUZMAN, ACCOMPANIED BY ARMY ATTACHE GENERAL CARRASCO, NAVAL ATTACHE ADMIRAL PAREDES AND AIR ATTACHE COLONEL VIDAL, CALLED ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS LATE AFTERNOON DECEMBER 19 TO DISCUSS CONGRESSIONAL ACTION CUTTING OFF MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO CHILE. GUZMAN BEGAN BY EXPRESSING THE GOC'S DEEP CONCERN OVER THE MEASURE AND ITS PREOCCUPATION OVER THE POSSIBLE RAMIFICATIONS. HE REQUESTED AND WAS GIVEN THE TEXT OF SECTION 25 OF THE FAA. HE SAID THAT HE AND SERVICE ATTACHES WERE UNDER HEAVY PRESSURE FROM SANTIAGO TO CLARIFY NUMEROUS QUESTIONS REGARDING SCOPE OF THE AMENDMENT AND ITS APPLICATION TO SPECIFIC ISSUES.

2. ROGERS STATED THAT WE WOULD ATTEMPT TO ANSWER QUESTIONS AS FAR AS POSSIBLE, BUPOINTED OUT THAT EXECUTIVE BRANCH LAWYERS WERE STILL EVALUATING OPERATIONAL EFFECTS OF AMENDMENT ON SPECIFIC ISSUES. GUZMAN ASKED WHETHER IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO CON/ENE AN EARLY SESSION BETWEEN EMBASSY
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OFFICIALS AND ATTACHES AND DEPARTMENT AND DOD OFFICIALS,

INCLUDING LAWYERS, TO REVIEW SUCH SPECIFIC ISSUES. IT WAS AGREED THAT SUCH MEETING WOULD BE HELD THE NEXT DAY.

3. IN THE COURSE OF THE DISCUSSION, GUZMAN RAISED THE ISSUE OF THE DEPARTMENT'S POSITION WITH RESPECT TO THE CHILE AMENDMENT. ROGERS SAID THAT HE WISHED TO REITERATE WHAT HE HAD TOLD AMBASSADOR HEITMANN HERE AND FOREIGN MINISTER CARVAJAL IN LIMA, I.E. THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAD MADE EVERY EFFORT TO BE HELPFUL TO THE GOC AND HAD STRONGLY OPPOSED THE RESTRICTIVE AMENDMENTS ON CHILE WHICH HAD BEEN SUBMITTED BY CONGRESSIONAL CRITICS BECAUSE OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTION. HE SAID THE DEPARTMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE WITHIN THE LAW TO HELP CHILE.

4. ELABORATING ON A QUESTION POSED BY GENERAL CARRASCO, GUZMAN ASKED HOW THE U.S. NOW VIEWED THE PROSPECTS FOR REGIONAL PEACE AND STABILITY GIVEN CHILE'S CURRENT INABILITY TO ACQUIRE ARMS. ROGERS SAID THAT AS HE HAD INFORMED MINISTER CARVAJAL, HE CONSIDERED THE ISSUE OF REGIONAL PEACE AND STABILITY TO BE PARAMOUNT AND ONE WHICH WAS BEING GIVEN OUR URGENT AND MOST CAREFUL CONSIDERATION. GUZMAN NOTED THAT HE HAD NOT BEEN PRESENT DURING AMBASSADOR HEITMANN'S CALL ON ROGERS PRIOR TO LEAVING FOR CHILE, BUT HE WISHED TO ASK WHETHER THERE HAD BEEN ANY DISCUSSION OF A POSSIBLE GUARANTEE BY THE U.S. OF CHILE'S TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND WHETHER THIS WAS A REALISTIC POSSIBILITY. ROGERS SAID THAT THIS WAS A FORMIDABLE AND EXTREMELY DIFFICULT QUESTION TO ANSWER. HE SAID HE APPRECIATED CHILE'S CONCERN OVER THE SUBJECT BUT INDICATED HE COULD NOT GIVE A SUBSTANTIVE RESPONSE.

5. GUZMAN SAID THAT HE HAD HEARD THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER HAD RECENTLY INDICATED HIS INTENTION TO VISIT BRAZIL, ARGENTINA, AND PERU IN THE NEAR FUTURE AND ASKED IF THIS WERE TRUE. ROGERS SAID THAT THE SECRETARY FOR SOME TIME HAD BEEN CONSIDERING A TRIP TO SOUTH AMERICA PRIOR TO THE MARCH MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS IN BUENOS AIRES. HE ADDED THAT THERE WERE NO FIRM PLANS AS YET. GUZMAN NOTED THAT THE GOC HAD INVITED THE SECRETARY TO VISIT CHILE AND

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HE HOPED CONSIDERATION WOULD BE GIVEN TO THAT INVITATION, PARTICULARLY IN THE CONTEXT OF A POSSIBLE VISIT TO PERU. ROGERS ASSURED GUZMAN THAT THIS, INDEED, WOULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN ANY PLANNING FOR SUCH A TRIP.

6. GUZMAN ASKED IF THE SECRETARY HAD MET RECENTLY WITH FORMER OAS AMBASSADOR LINOWITZ AND IF HE HAD MADE ANY STATEMENTS WITH RESPECT TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED

IN THE REPORT ISSUED BY THE LINOWITZ GROUP. ROGERS
REPLIED THAT THE TWO MEN DID MEET ON DECEMBER 17 TO DIS-
CUSS THE REPORT AND THAT THE SECRETARY HAD MADE SOME
COMMENTS TO SEVERAL REPORTERS, THE GENERAL THRUST OF WHICH

WAS THAT THERE WAS MUCH IN THE REPORT OF FAVORABLE
INTEREST TO THE DEPARTMENT. ROGERS ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT
SOME PRESS ACCOUNTS ATTRIBUTING COMMENTS TO THE SECRETARY
ON THE CUBA ISSUE WERE ERRONEOUS.

7. GUZMAN THANKED ROGERS FOR RECEIVING THE CHILEAN GROUP
AND SAID THAT THEY WOULD RETURN THE FOLLOWING DAY WITH
SPECIFIC QUESTIONS REGARDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
CHILE AMENDMENT ON MILITARY ASSISTANCE. SISCO

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